

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process unit capable of being removably mounted in an apparatus body;

a switching unit for switching the apparatus between a state to permit the mounting/dismounting of the process unit and a state to inhibit the mounting/dismounting of the process unit;

a cover member which is free to be shifted between an open position and a close position with respect to the apparatus body and which, in the close position, serves to restrict an operation of mounting/dismounting the process unit by a user; and

a controller capable of executing a power save mode by deactivating some parts, inclusive of the switching unit, of the apparatus, the power save mode in which the apparatus consumes less power than that consumed during an image forming operation,

wherein when the cover member is opened during the execution of the power save mode, the controller cancels the power save mode to shift the apparatus to a state to permit an operation of the switching unit, and when the cover member is closed during the execution of the power save mode, the controller maintains the power save mode.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a command input unit for accepting a process-unit mounting/dismounting command from the user,

wherein when the command input unit accepts the mounting/dismounting command input, the controller operates the switching unit to shift the apparatus to the state to permit the mounting/dismounting of the process unit.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the command input unit is designed not to accept the command inputted by the user while the cover member is in the close position.

12. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a power source for supplying power to the switching unit,

wherein the controller deactivates the power source in the power save mode.

13. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a development rotary capable of being mounted with a developer as the process unit and driven into rotation by a driver,

wherein the driver functions as the switching unit by selectively positioning the development rotary at a predetermined mounting/dismounting position defined in correspondence to the developer for permitting the mounting/dismounting of the developer, or at any other position.

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the controller starts the power save mode when a predetermined length of time has passed in a state where the apparatus is applied with no operation request from an external apparatus connected with the apparatus or from the user.

15. (Currently amended) A control method of an image forming apparatus including: a process unit capable of being removably mounted in an apparatus body; a switching unit for switching the apparatus between a state to permit the mounting/dismounting of the process unit and a state to inhibit the mounting/dismounting of the process unit; and a cover member which is free to be shifted between an open position and a close position with respect to the apparatus body and which, in the close position, serves to restrict an operation of mounting/dismounting the process unit by a user,

wherein a power save mode in which the apparatus consumes less power than that consumed in an image forming operation is executed as required by deactivating some parts, inclusive of the switching unit, of the apparatus, and

wherein when the cover member is opened during the execution of the power save mode, the power save mode is cancelled to shift the apparatus to a state to permit an operation of the switching unit, and when the cover member is closed during the execution of the power save mode, the controller maintains the power save mode.

16-35. (Canceled)